

SCOTTISH DIVISION.

A meeting of the Scottish Division of the Medico-Psychological Association was held at Ayr District Asylum, Glengal, Ayr, on Friday, March 22nd, 1907.

The following members were present:—Drs. Baugh, Easterbrook, Gostwyck, Havelock, Hotchkis, Carlyle Johnstone, Keay, Kerr, A. R. MacIntyre, MacIraith, McMillan, McRae, Marr, G. M. Robertson, Turnbull, Urquhart, Wilson, and Bruce, Divisional Secretary.

Dr. Carlyle Johnstone was called to the chair.

Letters of apology were intimated from Dr. Robert Jones (President), Sir William Gairdner, Drs. Campbell, Ireland, Marshall, A. Robertson, and Watson.

The minute of last meeting was read, agreed to, and signed.

Drs. Turnbull and Bruce were appointed Representative Members of Council, and Dr. Hamilton C. Marr, Divisional Secretary.

Applications for admission as members were received from:—Patrick Steele, M.B., Ch.B.(Edinburgh), Assistant Medical Officer, Edinburgh District Asylum, Bangour, Uphall (proposed by Drs. Keay, Rutherford, and Bruce); and Stewart Carlisle Howard, M.B., Ch.B.(Aberdeen), Assistant Physician, Perth District Asylum, Murthly (proposed by Drs. Urquhart, Bruce, and Alcock).

After ballot these applicants were declared unanimously elected.

Dr. EASTERBROOK showed the members over the new hospital, and gave a clinical demonstration upon a few cases of special interest.

Drs. Urquhart, Ireland, Marr, Easterbrook, Ford Robertson, and G. M. Robertson were nominated members of the National Committee appointed to co-operate in the work of studying the causes of mental diseases and their prevention.

Dr. URQUHART gave the following notice of motion:

“That the Division at the next meeting proceed to elect a Business Committee for the Scottish Division, that it consist of three members who are at the same time ordinary members of the Council and of the Association.”

Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Dr. Easterbrook terminated the meeting. The members afterwards dined together in the Ayr Station Hotel.

IRISH DIVISION.

THE SPRING MEETING of the Division was held at Portrane Asylum on Thursday, April 11th, 1907, by the kindness of Dr. Donelan, who entertained the members at luncheon after first escorting them round the Institution.

At the meeting afterwards the chair was occupied by Dr. Donelan, and there were also present:—Drs. M. J. Nolan, T. Drapes, F. O'Mara, H. M. Cullinan, R. R. Leeper, J. J. Fitzgerald, H. M. Eustace, F. E. Rainsford, M. J. Forde, and W. R. Dawson (Hon. Sec.).

A vote of sympathy with the relatives of the late Dr. R. A. L. Graham was passed unanimously.

A letter regretting inability to be present was read from the President of the Association.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed, and signed.

A letter was read from Mrs. Woods, thanking the members of the Division for the vote of condolence passed at the last meeting.

Dr. W. R. Dawson was elected Divisional Secretary, and Drs. M. J. Nolan and T. Drapes Representative Members of Council, for the ensuing year.

The dates of the meetings of the Irish Division in the ensuing year were fixed as follows:—Tuesday, November 5th, 1907; Thursday, April 30th, 1908; and Thursday, July 2nd, 1908.

Dr. Nolan cordially assented to the unanimous wish of the members that the Summer Meeting should be held at Downpatrick Asylum.

The names of Drs. Norman, Nolan, and Dawson were directed to be forwarded to the General Secretary for service on the National Committee of the proposed International Commission for the Study of the Causes and Prevention of Mental Diseases.

The SECRETARY reported that, the matter being urgent, he had ventured to send a memorandum to the Parliamentary Committee suggesting certain changes in the Lunacy Law of Ireland, with the request that they would bring the subject under the notice of the framers of the proposed Irish Council Bill. The Lunacy Legislation Sub-committee had met on April 3rd and drawn up a modified resolution, which had been forwarded to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

The action of the Secretary was approved, and after a prolonged discussion a modification of his Memorandum was agreed on, and copies were directed to be forwarded to the General Secretary in time for the May General Meeting of the Association, and to the Royal Commission on the Feeble-minded. The amended Memorandum was essentially the same as that of the Lunacy Legislation Sub-Committee, as published in the April number of the JOURNAL, with the addition of the following clause :

" In the event of any legislation dealing with Irish Lunacy matters, an enactment should be introduced to extend to Ireland the provisions of the Act of Settlement in the matter of deportation of Pauper Lunatics."

It was also suggested that the question of the conversion of the asylum service into a National Service might receive consideration.

The following were constituted a Committee to watch the Irish Council Bill, and if necessary take action, with reference to lunacy administration :—Drs. Rainsford, O'Mara, Norman, Donelan, W. Graham, Nolan, Fitzgerald, Leeper, Drapes, and Dawson.

A vote of thanks to the Secretary for his action in the matter was passed unanimously, and he replied.

COMMUNICATION.

Dr. R. R. LEEPER read a paper entitled " Notes on some Cases of Melancholia." The proceedings terminated with a cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Donelan for his kind hospitality.

OBITUARY.

DR. CHARLES FÉRÉ.

Charles Samson Féré was born at Auffay, in Normandy, half way between Dieppe and Rouen, on the 13th June, 1852. He began his medical studies at Rouen in 1870, and, two years later, proceeded to Paris, where he had the advantage of such teachers as Broca, Guériot, Panot, and Guyon. At that time he desired to become a surgeon, but he fell under the powerful influence of Charcot at the Salpêtrière, and thereafter devoted himself to neuropathology. His inaugural thesis (1882) was entitled *Functional Disorders of Sight caused by Cerebral Lesion*. In 1884 he was successful in the competition for the appointment of Assistant Physician at the Salpêtrière, and in 1887 was promoted to the post of Chief Physician at the Bicêtre, which he held until his untimely death.

I do not intend to present even a short account of the work accomplished by Féré, which is, on the whole, familiar to those interested in psychiatry. Hypnotism, hysteria, the heredity of degeneration, criminals, and epileptics have been the subjects of his special scientific investigations. His earlier study of surgery had rendered him a good anatomist, and resulted in the publication of his useful book on the anatomy of the nervous system. Philosophical researches had a strong attraction for Féré, and issued in the contribution of many papers on the pathology of the emotions, on sexual instinct, on work and pleasure, on the disorders of intellect. For a considerable number of years he was a member of the Society of Biology, and submitted most interesting and important studies on muscular work, on the physiology of voluntary movements, on sensory excitations, on muscular fatigue, on teratology, and on teratology from the experimental standpoint.

Féré was a tall man, with a long black beard, a high broad forehead, large and pensive eyes. His strongly marked features were expressive of a gentle melancholy. At a first glance he appeared rather rough and cold in manner, but he was truly kind, gentle, and exquisitely sensitive. Féré led a simple life, and sought neither honours or rewards. His life was passed in the hospital, the laboratory,